

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01177 291220Z

43

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 AID-20 TRSE-00 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 /215 W
----- 118242

R 290930Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5107

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, GB

SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF 28TH UNGA

REF: STATE 250151

1. WILL TAKE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW WITH PRESIDENT BONGO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ANALYSIS CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND OTHER RELATED TELEGRAMS.

2. AS DEPARTMENT WELL AWARE, SITUATION IN GABON IS ONE WHERE GOG GENERALLY AGREES WITH U.S. POSTION OF MODERATION ON MOST ISSUES BUT IS UNWILLING TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM OTHER AFRICAN OR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WHENEVER THERE IS LARGE CONSENSUS AMONG LATTER.

3. PRESIDENT BONGO ALSO CURRENTLY SEEKING TO PROJECT MORE NON-ALIGNED IMAGE. SINCE HE PERSONALLY SCORNFUL OF IDEOLOGIES AND PRAGMATIC IN HIS SEARCH FOR ECONOMIC BENIFITS FOR HIS COUNTRY, HE SEEKS TO OFFSET THOSE ACTIONS FOR WHICH EH COULD BE CRITICIZED BY OTHER AFRICANS (E.G. TRADE WITH RHODESIA, TRADE WITH AND AID FORM SOUTH AFRICA) BY OTHER ACTIONS WHICH COST HIM NOTHING (E.G.

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 01177 291220Z

RECOGNIZING SIHANOUK AND PRG, BECOMING MOSLEM).

4. RESULT OF ABOVE IS THAT CONVINCING BONGO OF MERITS OF OUR POSITION IS LARGELY FUTILE EXERCISE OF PREACHING TO A CONVERT WHO FEELS HE MUST OFTEN TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS FOR REASONS UNRELATED TO MERITS OF CASE.

5. EMBASSY VIEWS: ON BASIS OF MY OWN LIMITED EXPERIENCE AT UN AND DEALING WITH THIRD WORLD, WOULD STRONGLY FAVOR TWO LINES OF ACTION TOUCHED ON IN REFTEL: (A) WE SHOULD SEIZE INITIATIVE AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE IN PRESENTING U.S. PROPOSALS IN FIELDS MENTIONED BY SECRETARY (E.G. PEACE-KEEPING, FOOD SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS HUMAN RIGHTS AND DISARMAMENT) IN ORDER TO PROJECT MORE POSITIVE IMAG. (B) WE SHOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN VOTING, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, WITH THIRD WORLD (AS SOVIETS, PRC AND INCREASINGLY EUROPEANS ARE DOING) AND LIMIT OUR NEGATIVE VOTES TO ROCK-BOTTOM CASES SUCH AS CALL FOR SANCTIONS OR USE OF UN RESOURCES FOR REBEL GROUPS.
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30 JUN 2005

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